

Docket No.: M061
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kenneth P. Sundermeyer et al.

Application No.: 10/690,980

Confirmation No.: 4705

Filed: October 21, 2003

Art Unit: 2176

For: CONTENT-RESTRICTED EDITING

Examiner: A. L. Rutledge

REPLY BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTENTION: BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

This Reply Brief is being submitted in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed July 30, 2007.

Arguments begin on page 2.

ARGUMENTS

Appellant hereby reasserts the arguments previously presented in the Appeal Brief of April 13, 2007 (*Appeal Brief*). For the sake of brevity, however, Appellant does not restate each of those arguments herein, but instead submits the following supplemental remarks in response to the Examiner's Answer of July 30, 2007 (*Examiner's Answer*).

A. **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Brown* in view of *Dreamweaver***

Claims 1-21 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of *Dreamweaver*. *Examiner's Answer*, at p. 4. Appellant traverses the rejection and asserts that the claims are allowable for the reasons stated below.

Claim 1 recites “*inserting one or more restriction tags into said revised document . . . and restricting edit functions of a page editor editing said revised document . . . responsive to said page editor reading said one or more restriction tags.*” As such, claim 1 requires that one or more restriction tags be inserted into a document. Editing functions of a page editor are then restricted when the document is edited. These restrictions are invoked in response to the page editor reading tags inserted into the document itself. Appellant respectfully submits that this is a straight-forward reading of claim 1, and that it does not require that any special definition be attributed to the term “revised document.”

Although *Brown* discusses restricting editing functions, its system requires the use of two distinct and separate files to achieve that goal—*i.e.*, a bounding file and an XML file. *Brown*, at ¶¶ [0060] and [0094]. It is *Brown*'s bounding file that contains editing restrictions to be applied to the XML file when the XML file is being edited. *Id.* The Examiner has previously agreed with this assessment. *Final Office Action*, at p. 15 (“*the bounding file itself is not edited* by the page editor reading the restriction tags. *Rather, the bounding file* disclosed by [*Brown*] *contains restriction tags for used* [sic] by the page editor *for editing another document.*” (emphasis modified)). Therefore, *Brown* does not teach or suggest restricting editing functions of a page editor editing a document in response to the page editor reading a restriction tag inserted within that document.

Dreamweaver also discusses restricting editing functions. *See generally Dreamweaver*. Similarly to *Brown*, however, *Dreamweaver*'s system still requires the use of distinct and separate documents. For example, *Dreamweaver* states that:

[a] developer may wish to "lock" all or part of an editable region, and prevent the editability from passing through to the instances of the nested templates. *The editable region would remain editable in the nested template itself, but it or part of it would be uneditable in pages based on the nested template.*

Dreamweaver, at p. 1 (emphasis added). As such, *Dreamweaver*'s editing restrictions are *not* implemented with respect to the same document where "tags" are inserted (*i.e.*, a "nested template"), but instead such restrictions are only invoked with respect to documents created therefrom (*i.e.*, "pages based on the nested template"). Therefore, *Dreamweaver* does not teach or suggest restricting editing functions of a page editor editing a document in response to the page editor reading a restriction tag inserted within that document.

The Examiner's response seems to indicate that Appellant's arguments rely upon a special definition for the term "revised document." *See Examiner's Answer*, at p. 17. For the purpose of the distinctions previously made, however, the meaning of the term "revised document" is largely irrelevant. Claim 1 clearly requires that restriction tags be inserted into a document, and that when that same document is edited, editing functions of a page editor be restricted due to the presence of the restriction tags inserted therein. Neither *Brown* nor *Dreamweaver* teaches or suggests these features. Consequently, the combination of *Brown* with *Dreamweaver*, even if proper, fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1.

Independent claims 8 and 15 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, albeit with different terminology (*e.g.*, "prohibition label," "restriction feature flag," "modified document," etc.). For the same reasons as those discussed above, Appellant respectfully asserts that the combination of *Brown* with *Dreamweaver*, even if proper, fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 8 and 15. Dependent claims 1-7, 9-14, and 1-21 depend from claims 1, 8, or 15, and thus are also patentable over the combination of *Brown* with

Dreamweaver for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that the Board overturn the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of record with respect to claims 1-21.

CONCLUSION

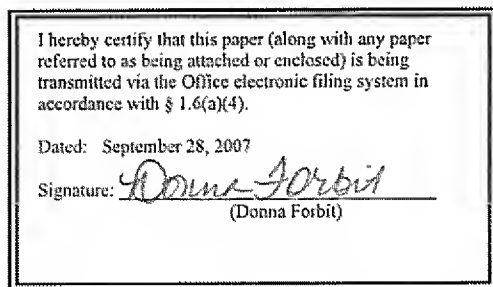
As for any of the claims not specifically discussed above, Appellant hereby reasserts the arguments presented in Appellant's Appeal Brief.

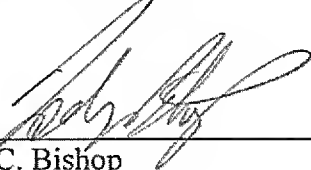
For the reasons advanced in Appellant's Appeal Brief and in this Reply, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 1-26 are of patentable merit. Therefore, reversal of the outstanding rejections is courteously solicited.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. M061, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 28, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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